

In Memoriam **Honorable David Allan Katz**



1933–2016

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Introduction

This issue of the *Ohio State Law Journal* serves as a tribute to the Honorable David A. Katz who departed from this life on July 26, 2016. Born David Allan Katz to Ruth and Samuel Katz, he spent his formative years growing up in Findlay, Ohio, before attending The Ohio State University, where he attained both an undergraduate and law degree in six years. While in law school, he was an associate editor of the *Ohio State Law Journal*. Judge Katz graduated summa cum laude from law school and was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Following graduation, Judge Katz worked in private practice, and from 1986 to 1993, was the managing partner at the law firm of Spengler Nathanson. He then served as a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio from 1994 to 2016.

Judge Katz was very involved in his community. He was a member of multiple bar associations and recipient of numerous service awards, including: the 2008 Distinguished Service Award by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., Legal Aid of Western Ohio, and the Toledo Bar Association; 2005 Distinguished Lawyer, University of Toledo Law Alumni Association; 2001 Toledo Bar Association Community Service Award; 2001 William K. Thomas Distinguished Jurist Award from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; 1996 Honorary Trustee for Life Award, St. Vincent Medical Center Foundation; and the 1979 Outstanding Citizen Award by the State of Israel.

By his own account, his greatest treasures were his family and the love of his life, Joan, who he met as a student while at Ohio State.¹ Together, their family includes children: Linda and Joel Beren; Michael and Robin Katz; and Debbie Katz and Jon Liebenthal; grandchildren: Sarah and Jon Karelitz; Stephanie Beren and Jeremy Nathaniel; Joshua and Samantha Beren; Elliott, Jamie, and Joey Katz; Rachel, Aaron, Daniel, and Jonathan Intrater; and Abby and Aaron Liebenthal; and great grandchildren: Mia Sydney Karelitz and Danielle Lior Karelitz. These *In Memoriam* pieces cover the spectrum of Judge Katz's professional life and reflect, in small measure, the inestimable effect he had, not only on the legal profession, but on everyone he encountered.

¹ Regrettably, Joan Katz passed away on April 7, 2017, prior to the publication of this issue.